

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 L-03 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10

NEA-10 AF-10 INT-08 RSR-01 /167 W

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R 081840 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7759

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EAGR, BE

SUB: TRADE PROBLEM- ARTICLE XXIV-6, CITRUS FRUIT, ETC.

1. SUMMARY: DURING RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIALS WE HAVE STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE TO THE U. S. OF ARTICLE XXIV-6 CONSULTATIONS. OUR
FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMANT ASSURED US HE WOULD CONVEY OUR
CONCERNS TO APPROPRIATE BELGIAN OFFICIALS AND EXPLAINED THAT THE
BELGIANS DID NOT SHARE THE VIEW OF SOME EC MEMBERS THAT THESE
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DRAG OUT. HE DID NOT HOWEVER,
FOR THE MOMENT SEE HOW THEY COULD BE BROUGHT TO SATISFACTORY
CONCLUSION. BOTH OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRY
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CONTACTS FEEL SOMETHING RESEMBLING THE ITALIAN PROPOSALS WILL
BE WORKED OUT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN CITRUS PROBLEM. BOTH
DOUBTED THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN OVERCOMING THE
US. PROBLEMS WITH EC POLICY ON CITRUS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING MOST RECENT EC COUNCIL MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG WE SAW THYSBAERT, ASSISTANT CHEF DE CABINET IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICE HANDLING EC AFFAIRS, TO DISCUSS SEVERAL TRADE MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE U. S. IN ADDITION WE HAVE HAD AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION WITH DE BRUYCKER, CHEF DE CABINET IN THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS ON MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND THE CITRUS PROBLEM.

3. WE TOLD THYSBAERT WE HOPED THE BELGIANS UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTICLE XXIV-6. WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO BRING NEGOTIATION TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THYSBAERT SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT SOME IN EC SEEMED TO PREFER DRAGGING THE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG IN THE HOPE THEY COULD BE FOLDED INTO THE MTN. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE BELGIAN VIEW. HE COULD NOT COMMIT HIMSELF ON THE MERITS OF THE ARGUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS TO WHETHER ANY COMPENSATION WAS DUE THE U. S. BUT ASSURED US THAT THE BELGIANS RECOGNIZED THAT FROM A POLICY VIEWPOINT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO MEET THE U. S. HALFWAY. HE THOUGHT THAT SOME SATISFACTORY SOLUTION COULD BE WORKED OUT BUT WAS AT A LOSS AS TO HOWE THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U. S. COULD BE BROUGHT TO A CONCLUSION. HE PROMISED TO CONVEY TO HIS COLLEAGUES THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE CONSULTATIONS.

4. THYSBAERT, WHO HAD BEEN IN LUXEMBOURG, BUT NOT AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS, THOUGHT THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE MANDATE BOTH FOR MTN AND FOR THE NON- AGRICULTURAL SIDE OF MEDITERRAANEAN POLICY. ON THE AGRICULTURAL SIDE HE WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT SOMETHING LIKE THE ITALIAN PROPOSALS ON CITRUS WOULD BE ACCEPTED. HE WAS, HOWEVER, STRUCK BY THE ADAMANT REFUSAL OF THE FRENCH TO GIVE ANY CONCESSIONS TO THE ALGERIANS ON WINE. THYSBAERT CONSIDERED THIS UNREALISTIC IF THE COMMUNITY EXPECTED ANYTHING FROM THE ALGERIANS ON PETROLEUM SINCE WINE ACCOUNTED FOR 80 PERCENT OF ALGERIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY.

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5. DE BRUYCKER ALSO THOUGHT SOME SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND FOR THE CITRUS PROBLEMS BUT THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPENSATED TO GET THEIR AGREEMENT. IN REPLY TO OUR QUERY, BOTH THYSBAERT AND DE BRUYCKER AGREED THERE SEEMED TO BE NOTHING IN THE CITRUS PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD DEAL WITH AMERICAN PROBLEMS WITH EC POLICY. DE BRUYCKER SAID THE AMERICAN PROBLEM WAS STRICTLY A POLITICAL ISSUE AS FAR AS BELGIUM WAS CONCERNED AND ASKED WHETHER WE HAD DISCUSSED IT RECENTLY WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON. WE CONFIRMED THAT IMPORTANCE OF CITRUS HAD RECENTLY BEEN STRESSED DURING A CONVERSATION BETWEEN DAVIGNON AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR.

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